**WORLD VEGETABLE CENTER**

**TRIP REPORT**

**1. Name of traveler(s)**

* Inviolate Dominick
* Nixon Mlowe
* Adam Lyimo

**2. Purpose of trip**

A) Participate in feedback meeting sessions with WorldVeg partner field technical staff, Government extension agents and farmers supported by Kilimo Endelevu (KE) project partner to share experiences, challenges and lessons drawn from the first season activities in Karatu District.

B) Scoring pest and diseases incidence mostly affecting vegetable in project selected villages before start up second season demo trials regarding assessment of the benefits of technologies on performance of different vegetable varieties in selected villages in Karatu district.

**3. Country(s) visited**

Tanzania

**4. Dates of trip**

17-23 March, 2020

**5. Budget source**

Africa RISING-code: 10000175-13

**6. List of people met during the trip and their details**

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| **Name** | **Title** | **Contact** |
| Ayesiga Buberwa | Project Manager - IDP | ayesiga.buberwa@tz.ilesdepaix.org |
| Silvester Masanja | Project Officer -RECODA | jnganga@recoda.or.tz |
| Calib Massam | Field Officer - RECODA | cmassam@recoda.or.tz |
| Wayda Peter | Karatu District Council – Focal person | Waydapeter12@gmail.com |
| David Manongi | Intern field officer - MVIWATA | Davidmanongi.c3@gmail.com |

**7. Important results/information gathered during the trip**

1. **Farmer feedback meeting**

* The feedback meeting was organized mainly to give opportunity to farmers, researchers and development partners including government extension staff and local leaders to share their experiences, lessons drawn from first season project activities and together come up with solutions for addressing challenges.
* One Feedback meeting was held per village in the first year selected villages namely Changarawe, Bashay, Rhotia Kainam, Slahhamo, Kambi ya Simba, G’lambo, Chemchem and Buger in which total of 147 farmer group members (79 male and 68 female) participated in the meeting.
* The approaches used was based on the social and experiential leaning which recognize that solving smallholder farmers’ problems requires observertion, joint learning, reflection, negotiation, feedback and following by modification strategies.

**Below are General comments/ feedback on what went well**

* vegetable crops grown in Demo plots following Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) perfumed well than those grown from farmers practice plots; for example the quality of tomatoes from demo plots with improved practices found to have good skin colour, test, texture,, low pests and disease incidences hence less or no pesticide was applied in their fields.
* Based on farmers and project partners feedback the scaling up of vegetable innovations including nutrition messages with regard to healthy eating in project year one work done so far is great because farmers are including vegetable and fruits in their day to day diets after they have received the trainings as well Kilimo Endelevu field technical team, farmers managed demo trials and others who participated in Training of Trainers Trainings ( TOTs) are in turn build capacity of other farmers through demo trials and as well thorough home to home visits to provide trainings and almost all farmers have managed to produce safe vegetables to feed their families and some have harvested vegetable seeds for future use and excess for sell however the main challenge is lack of markets of vegetables produced in excess and transport to reach other farmers located far away for trainings.
* The training conducted by World Vegetable Team of facilitators were very good designed, full of practical sessions which made the farmers aware, remember and practice what they were trained.Training Participants were very much involved step by step in the leaning process through Farmers Field School practically from production, management practices including pest management, postharvest, nutrition and cooking /recipes preparations that involved also the local kiosk and restaurants.
* Monitoring of activities which involved both Africa RISING technical staff with close follow up with KE staff, contributed to success of project partner’s activities in the field.
* Inproved Technologies including GAP and IPM made the great difference in the yields (The plots were very good and producing a lot of vegetables fre of industrial chemicals).
* Partners from different organisation, learn a lot from each other.
* Flexibility among the field officers contributed a lot with the success.
* Farmers Field days, noted to be the best model to train farmers.
* Vegetable production without industrial fertilizers and peptides is possible.
* Vegetables contribute a lot in dietary diversity, and income.

**Areas for Improvement.**

* There are complaints from some farmers that some Government Extension staff are not doing well in terms of provision of right extension services to farmers at the right time and if the project will continue working with the same people, will negatively affect the project/farmers performance
* Use of natural pesticides in controlling *Tuta absoluta* in tomato proved to be not effective to almost all farmers’ fields including demo plots; farmers requested the project team including researches to look for alternative ways of controlling *Tuta absoluta* that will not pollute the vegetables as well the environment such ways to include natural peasticides and other botanical methods because farmers working with KE project are not believing neither interested on use of industrial chemicals on controlling pests in vegetables.
* Some of technologies demonstrated in the first season on preparation of soil medium for establishment of Healthy seedlings did not work well in some areas farmers requested to repeat training on the same in the second season.
* Farmers requested to use data collection forms instead of data collection booklet used last season. The forms will be distributed based on crop growing stages followed by instruction step by step

**Suggestions on special request**

* The project to think about motivation on the community volunteers including provision of transport to reach more farmers for trainings e.g. provision of bicycles and in addition to other benefits such as TOT trainings, the economic benefits that VFTs/Farmer trainers receive can be increased by facilitating them to start or improve income-generating activities related to the technologies they are promoting.

**Way forward**

* Basing on community demand driven almost all farmers (95%) participated in feedback meetings requested the project to repeat on farm demo trials in all project selected villages for learning purposes and said that they will provide land based on selection criteria shared by the project and that they continue to widespread of innovations to other farmers inside and outside the project areas.

1. **Pest and diseases incidences assessment**

**Pest incidence**

* Low pressure of whitefly infestation in all demo plots were observed ,many larvae of l Lepidoptera and crawling insects were observed and collected for further identification in laboratory
* Sticky insect traps (blue and yellow) were installed in each demo plots followed by data collection after week

**Disease incidence**

Tomatoes found in the Last season demonstration plots were highly affected by fungal diseases (late blight, powdery mildew and early blight) and some found Sweet peppers had signs of Bacterial spots and powdery mildew

**8. Suggestions for follow up**

* Inviolate and research facilitator team to organise a brush up TOT training on principals of Vegetable production for nutrition, value addition and excess for income generation through use of GAP including IPM and on farm data collection and use.
* Inviolate, Ayesiga and Wayda to call for a meeting with government extension agents in project site to discuss the approach to Extension officers’ roles for change rather than being channels for agriculture technologies communicated from outside so that they become catalyst and facilitators helping communities they are supporting define their own goals, and access information and knowledge , markets and improved technologies including that contribute to their community wellbeing and specifically their health.
* World Veg to include session on vegetable seed production in upcoming training in order for the farmers to have their own seeds for future use and excess for income generation.
* WorldVeg technical team (Agronomist) with support from Inviolate to finalise and share the fact sheet on common pest and diseases of vegetables identified in KE project sites including their control measures ( Natural pesticides and botanicals) and share the findings with Field technical staff and farmer trainers latest by 3rd week of March, 2020
* Nixon to collect data from insect traps installed in selected villages
* All crops debris and weeds must be removed from all demo plots before Liaise with Extension agents to facilitate farmers managing demo trials to finalize land cultivation and prepare beds for lay out experiment trial in selected villages.
* District extension focal person in collaboration with Extension agents and IDP field staff to facilitate farmers to construct/build fence using local available materials to protect Demo trial plots from eating pests and other rodents before transplanting.

**9. Photos or other supporting documents**

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**Figure 1: Farmer presenting their views during farmer feedback meeting at Kambi ya Simba village in Karatu District.**

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**Figure 2:Farmer group leaders sharing lessons froms last eason demo trials with WorldVeg Resarch Associate i( pink bluse) n and Ward extenionist in Blue trouser at Bashay village in Karatu District**

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**Figure 3: Pest and diseases identification facilitated by Nixon Mowe from WorldVeg (Left) on going at farmers field in Slahhamo village in Karatu District.**

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**Figure 4: Nixon mlowe elastrating how the insect traps work at farmers field in Karatu village**

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**Figure 5: Farmer trainer Pius Wilbard (in brown jacket) selling vegetable seeds harvested from his vegetable plot during feedback meeting at vill Rhotia Kainam village in Karatu District.**